

SYRIAN GROSS.

precipitous heights above the Terpai, is  
a bold group of  
rocks, on which the church dedicated to Mar  
Shalita is  
built. The ruins of a former church, dedicated to  
Mart  
Mariam, are higher up the alp. Below the  
rocks are a  
great number of tombstones, with incised  
ornaments  
upon them bearing the general name of  
crosses. The  
church has nothing speci-  
ally ecclesiastical in its  
appearance. It has some  
resemblance to a keep with  
out-buildings, and its irreg-  
ular form seems to have  
been dictated by the con-  
figuration of the rock. It  
has no windows, and the  
cruciform slits at a great  
height look like loopholes.  
It is indeed the ultimate  
refuge of the Patriarch  
and the villagers in case of a descent of the  
Kurds.  
I walked all round it, through the poplar  
grove, with  
its mirthful waters, among the tombs, and  
back by  
the edge of the ravine to the west side without  
finding  
a door. In truth the only entrance is up a  
rude and  
very steep ladder, about ten feet high, with a  
rude door  
at the top six inches thick, but only three feet  
high.  
How old and infirm people get up and down I  
cannot tell.  
So difficult is the access that I was glad to avail  
myself  
of the vigorous aid of Mar Gauriel, who, having  
visited  
England, is ready on all occasions with  
courteous atten-  
tions to a lady. The reason of the low doors is  
said to  
be that all may bow their heads on entering  
the house  
of God, and that the Moslems may not stable  
their cattle  
in the church. The entrance harmonises with the

obvious  
pervading motive of the design, which is  
*inaccessibility*.